

Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults in 2001

Rhode Island Department of Health
Office of Health Statistics
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Introduction

This brief summary presents information on health behaviors reported in 2001 among Rhode Island adults, based on data from the Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS).

The BRFS is administered in all 50 states and four U.S. territories with funding and specifications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The BRFSS monitors the prevalence of behavioral risk factors that contribute to the leading causes of death and disease among adults aged 18 years and older in the United States. Rhode Island has participated in the BRFSS since 1984.

From January through December 2001, the Rhode Island BRFS conducted approximately 343 random-digit dialed telephone interviews each month for a total sample of 4,120 interviews for the calendar year. The sample was comprised of 1,550 males and 2,570 females; 292 were Hispanic, 3,404 were White non-Hispanic, 122 were Black non-Hispanic, and the remainder were other non-Hispanics; 792 were aged 65 or older.

This report addresses eleven major health risks among adult Rhode Islanders in 2001. The data are also presented by sex and race/ethnicity.



This work was funded in part by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Cooperative Agreement #U58/CCU100589-18 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This report and other Rhode Island BRFSS data are available on the Rhode Island Department of Health web site: <http://www.healthri.org>. For more information on survey methodology, definitions of health risks, or national or state data, visit the BRFSS web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss> or contact the Office of Health Statistics, Rhode Island Department of Health (Phone: 401-222-2550). This report was prepared by Ken Condon, Jana E. Hesser, Ph.D., and Kathy Taylor.

Highlights

- Twenty four percent of adults currently smoke every day or some days, more than 1 in 2 are overweight (56%), 25% engage in no leisure time physical activity, and 13% keep firearms in or around the home. (Figure 1)
- Men have higher rates than women for some important health risks. Two-thirds of men are overweight compared with somewhat less than half of women. Men's rate of binge drinking (21%) is twice that of women (10%). Eighteen percent of men report keeping firearms in or around their home compared with 9% of women. A higher proportion of men do not have a particular place to go when sick or in need of health advice (15% vs 8%) and a higher percentage of men than women ages 18 - 64 are uninsured (10% vs 7%) (Figure 2).
- Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics have poorer access to health care than White non-Hispanics. A higher proportion are uninsured (19%, 16% and 7% respectively), were unable to see a doctor in the past 12 months due to cost (12%, 14% and 6% respectively), and do not have a particular place to go if sick or in need of health advice (16%, 19% and 10% respectively). (Figure 3)
- About one-third of Hispanics report their health as fair or poor, a rate more than twice that for White (13%) and Black (17%) non-Hispanics. Hispanics also report no leisure time physical activity much more often (42%) than do White (23%) and Black non-Hispanics (29%). (Figure 3)

Figure 1
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
 (Ages 18 and older) -- 2001

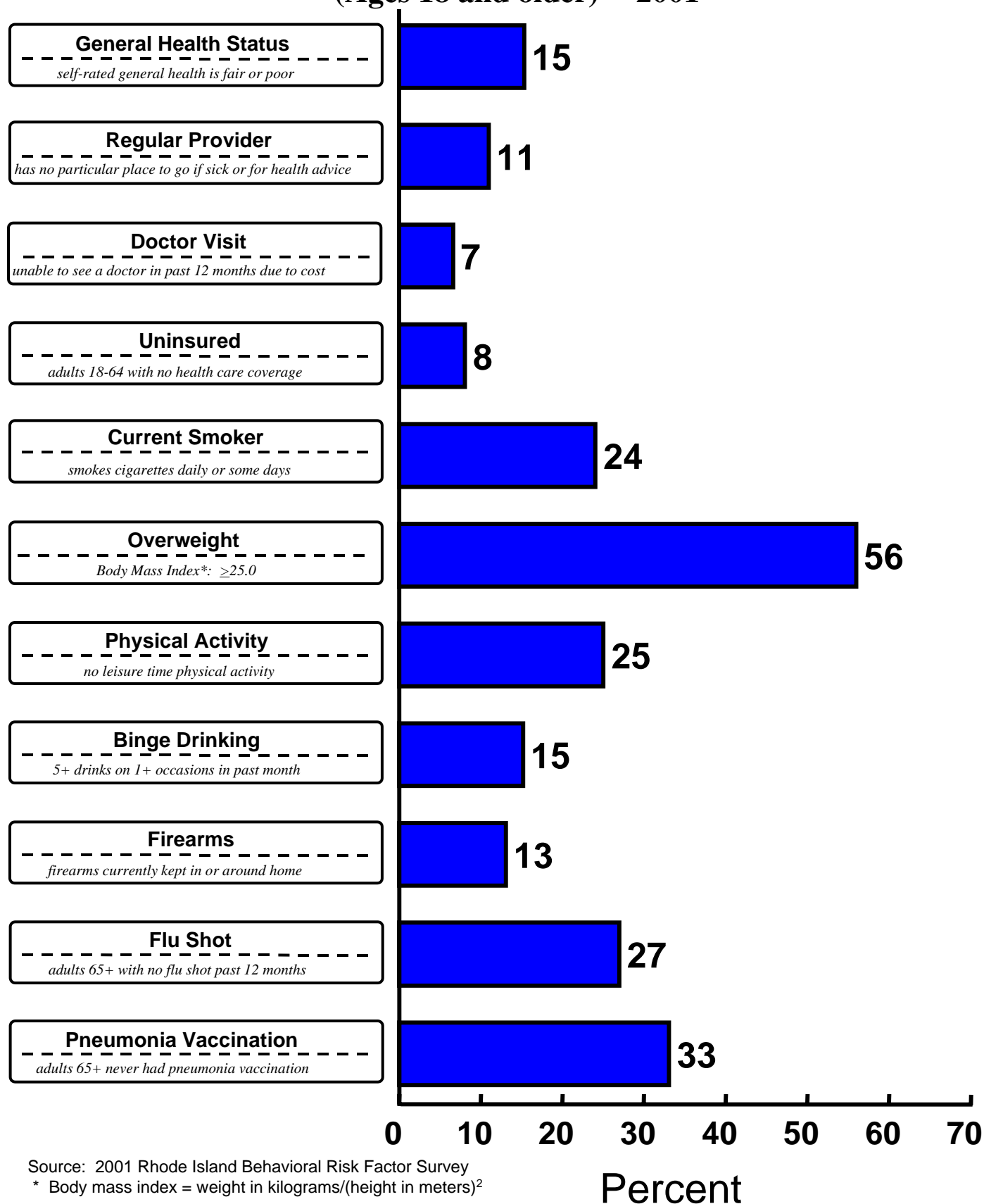
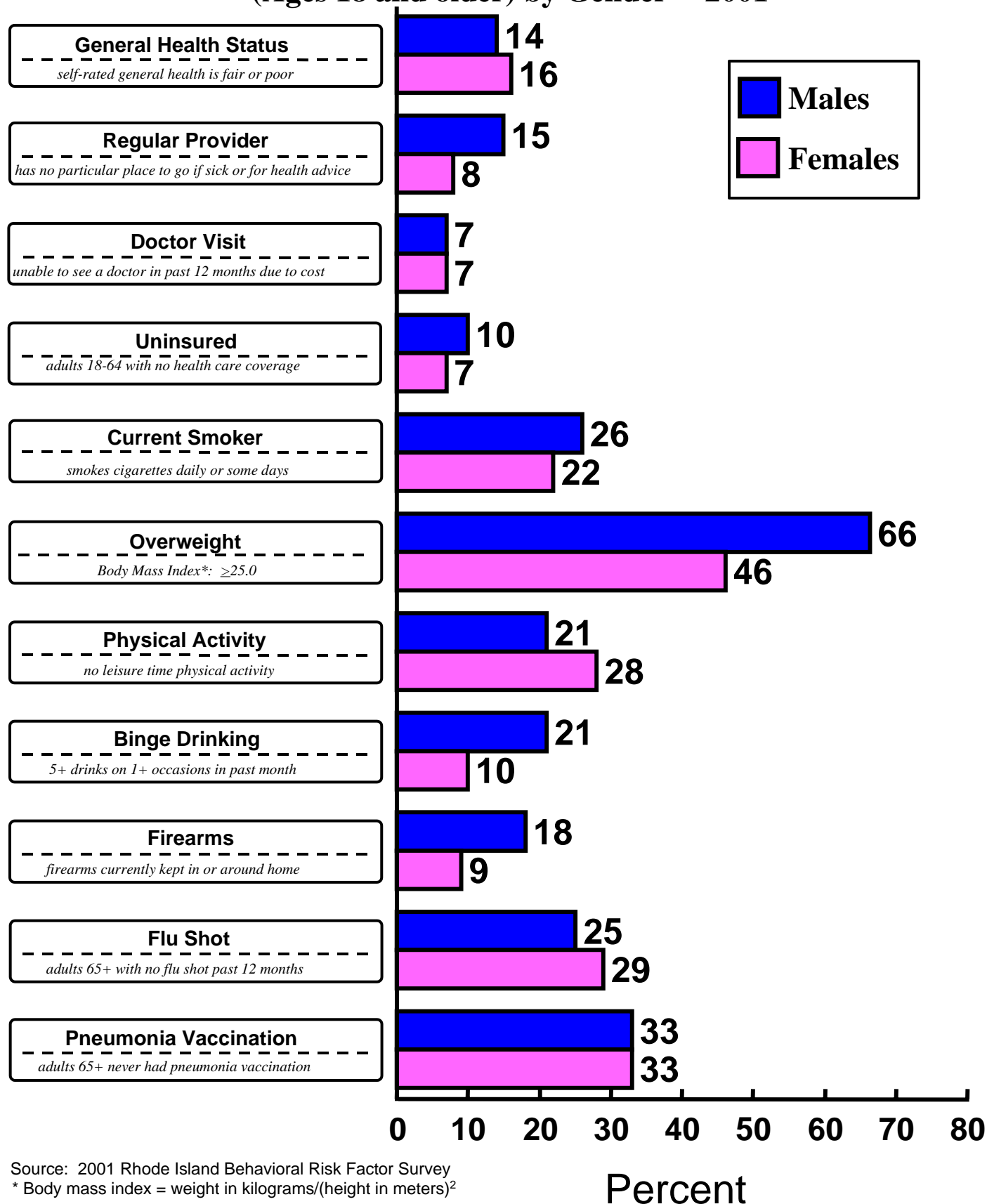
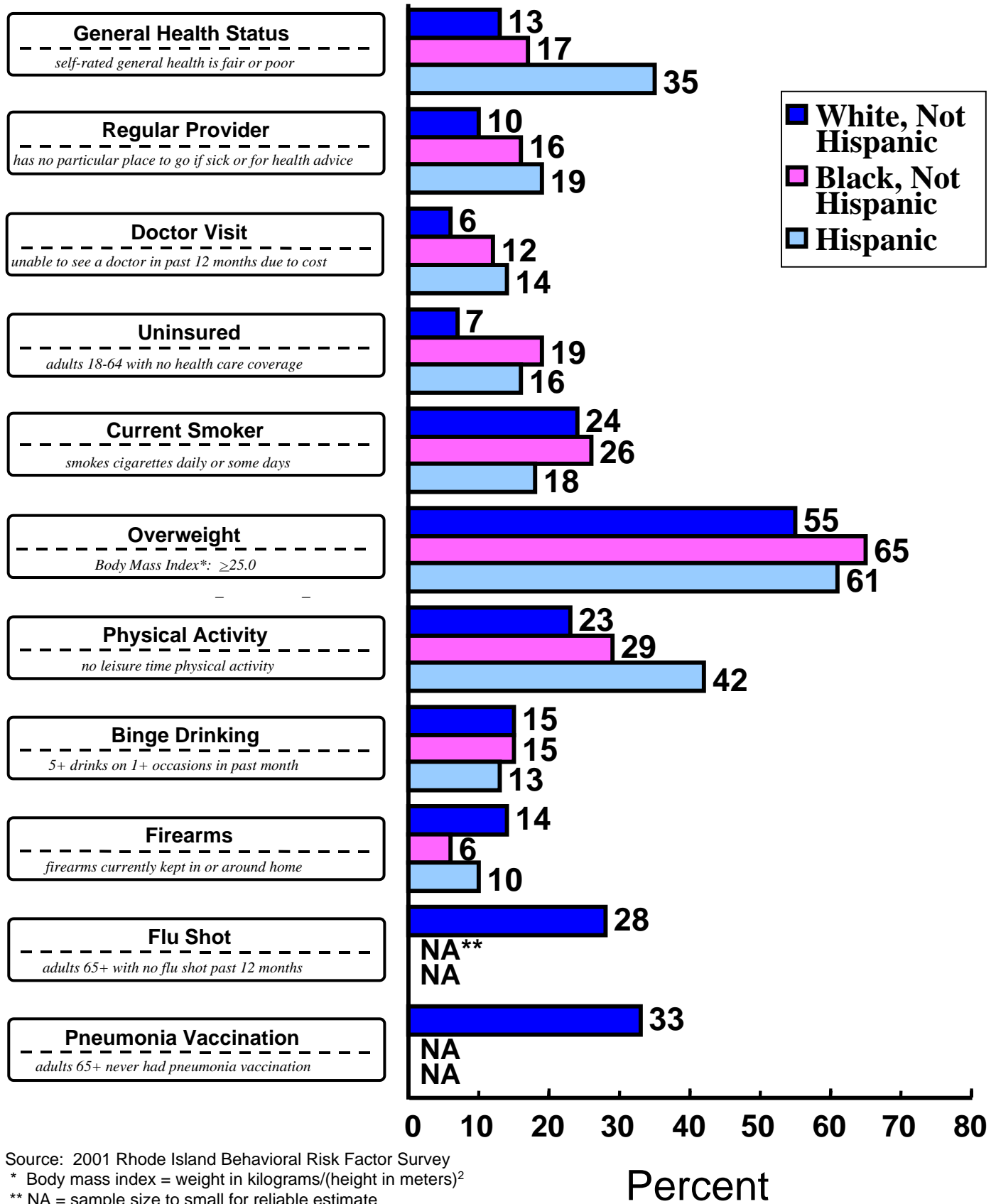


Figure 2
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
(Ages 18 and older) by Gender -- 2001



Source: 2001 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey
 * Body mass index = weight in kilograms/(height in meters)²

Figure 3
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
(Ages 18 and older) by Race/Ethnicity -- 2001



Source: 2001 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey
 * Body mass index = weight in kilograms/(height in meters)²
 ** NA = sample size too small for reliable estimate